IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the Application.

1. (currently amended) A method for facilitating system management in a data processing system, comprising:

tracking status information of a primary system component of a platform-side operating system in a data processing system during a first instantiation of the platform-side operating system, wherein said tracking is facilitated by a service processor of the data processing system;

tracking status information of a redundant system component of the platform-side operating system in the data processing system in combination with tracking said status information of the primary system component during the first instantiation of the platform-side operating system, wherein the redundant system component is configured for providing functionality provided by the primary system component during the first instantiation of the platform-side operating system and wherein said tracking is facilitated by [[a]]the service processor of the data processing system; and

in conjunction with performing reboot of the platform-side operating system for providing a second instantiation of the platform-side operating system after termination of the first instantiation of the platform-side operating system, configuring the platform-side operating system dependent ~~at least partially~~ upon said status information ~~of least one of said system components~~, wherein said configuring includes ~~determining if the primary system component is incapable of providing said functionality and~~ causing~~allowing~~ said functionality to be provided by the redundant system component

during the second instantiation of the platform-side operating system ~~in response to determining that the primary system component is incapable of providing said functionality~~, and wherein said configuring is performed in conjunction with ~~facilitated at least partially by~~ a boot-time portion of platform firmware of the data processing system accessing said status information from the service processor prior to said reboot of the platform-side operating system being completed.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said tracking includes:
probing a device driver associated with the system component; and
receiving said status information from the device driver.

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The method of claim [[3]]1 wherein:
~~said platform firmware includes boot-time firmware; and~~
~~said enabling~~ accessing said status information includes transmitting at least a portion of said status information of at least one of said system components at boot-time by the service processor for reception by the boot-time portion of said platform ~~boot-time~~ firmware.

5. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein said transmitting includes transmitting over a network connection.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim [[3]]4 wherein:
~~said platform firmware includes run-time firmware; and~~
~~said enabling~~ configuring the platform-side operating system includes a run-time portion of said platform firmware accessing ~~includes~~

~~maintaining~~ at least a portion of said status information of at least one of said system components from within a persistent data structure that is accessible by the run-time portion of said platform~~run-time~~ firmware ~~thereby enabling said run-time firmware to access at least a portion of said status information of at least one of said system components~~.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said tracking includes:

querying a device driver associated with the primary system component after an adverse operating system condition for determining if the primary system component contributed to the adverse operating system action and

implementing a specified corrective action involving the primary system component in response to a determination that the primary system component contributed to the adverse operating system condition.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said tracking includes:

determining that the redundant system component is idle during the~~a~~ present operating system instantiation;

monitoring status of the redundant system component during the present operating system instantiation; and

implementing a specified corrective action involving the redundant system component in response to a determination that the redundant system component is at least temporarily unable to provide intended redundancy functionality.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving user-specified configuration information via a service processor based user interface; and

transmitting at least a portion of said user-specified configuration information by the service processor for reception by said platform firmware;

wherein said configuring is further dependent at least partially upon said user-specified configuration information.

10. (withdrawn) A method for facilitating system management in a data processing system, comprising:

tracking status information of a primary system component of a platform-side operating system in a data processing system;

tracking status information of a redundant system component of the platform-side operating system in the data processing system in combination with tracking said status information of the primary system component and wherein the redundant system component is configured for providing functionality provided by the primary system component; and

enabling access of at least a portion of said status information of at least one of said system components by platform firmware of the data processing system for enabling the platform-side operating system to be configured dependent at least partially upon said status information of at least one of said system components;

wherein said tracking and said enabling access are facilitated by a service processor of the data processing system.

11. (withdrawn) The method of claim 10 wherein said tracking of each one of said system components includes:

probing a device driver associated with a respective one of saidthe system components; and

receiving said status information from the device driver.

12. (withdrawn) The method of claim 10 wherein:

said platform firmware includes boot-time firmware; and

said enabling access includes transmitting at least a portion of said status information at boot-time by the service processor for reception by said boot-time firmware.

13. (withdrawn) The method of claim 12 wherein said transmitting includes transmitting over a network connection.

14. (withdrawn) The method of claim 10 wherein:

said platform firmware includes run-time firmware; and

said enabling access includes maintaining at least a portion of said status information of at least one of said system components in a persistent data structure that is accessible by said run-time firmware thereby enabling said run-time firmware to access at least a portion of said status information of at least one of said system components.

15. (withdrawn) The method of claim 10 wherein said tracking includes:

querying a device driver associated with the primary system component after an adverse operating system condition for determining if the primary system component contributed to the adverse operating system action and

implementing a specified corrective action involving the primary system component in response to a determination that the primary system component contributed to the adverse operating system condition.

16. (withdrawn) The method of claim 10 wherein said tracking includes:

determining that the redundant system component is idle during a present operating system instantiation;

monitoring status of the redundant system component during the present operating system instantiation; and

implementing a specified corrective action involving the redundant system component in response to a determination that the redundant system component is at least temporarily unable to provide intended redundancy functionality.

17. (withdrawn) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

receiving user-specified configuration information via a service processor based user interface; and

transmitting at least a portion of said user-specified configuration information by the service processor for reception by said platform firmware;

wherein said configuring is further dependent at least partially upon said user-specified configuration information.

18. (currently amended) A method for facilitating system management in a data processing system, comprising:

accessing status information of a primary system component of a platform-side operating system in a data processing system;

accessing status information of a redundant system component of the platform-side operating system in the data processing system in combination with accessing said status information of the primary system component, wherein the redundant system component is configured for providing functionality provided by the primary system component during a first instantiation of the platform-side operating system; and

in conjunction with performing reboot of the platform-side operating system for providing a second instantiation of the platform-side operating system after termination of the first instantiation of the platform-side operating system, a boot-time portion of platform

firmware of the data processing system configuring the platform-side operating system dependent at least partially upon said status information of at least one of said system components, wherein said configuring is performed in conjunction with the boot-time portion of said platform firmware accessing said status information from the service processor prior to said reboot of the platform-side operating system being completed;

~~wherein said accessing and at least a portion of said configuring are facilitated by platform firmware of data processing system~~.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 18 wherein said accessing is facilitated in response to said status information of at least one of said system components being transmitted by a service processor of the data processing system for reception by the boot-time portion of said platform firmware.

20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) The method of claim [[20]]18 wherein said accessing includes receiving at least a portion of said status information of at least one of said system components via a network connection.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 18 wherein:

~~said platform firmware includes run-time firmware; and~~

said accessing includes accessing at least a portion of said status information of at least one of said system components in a persistent data structure maintained at least partially by the service processor and accessible by a run-time portion of said platform~~run-time~~ firmware.

23. (original) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

receiving user-specified configuration information transmitted by the service processor for reception by the platform firmware, wherein said configuring is further dependent at least partially upon said user-specified configuration information.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein:

said configuring includes implementing a specified corrective action for the redundant system component in response to said status information of the redundant system component indicating that the redundant system component is unavailable to provide intended redundancy functionality.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the specified corrective action includes at least one of issuing notification of the unavailability of the redundant system component and issuing notification to repair or replace the redundant system component for maintaining fail-over capability.

26. (currently amended) A computer readable medium, comprising:

instructions processable by at least one of a service processor in a data processing system and platform firmware of a platform-side operating system in the data processing system; and

an apparatus from which said instructions are accessible by at least one of the service processor and said platform firmware;

wherein said instructions being adapted for enabling at least one of the service processor and said platform firmware to facilitate:

tracking status information of a primary system component of a platform-side operating system in a data processing system during a first instantiation of the platform-side operating system, wherein said tracking is facilitated by [[a]]the service processor of the data processing system;

tracking status information of a redundant system component of the platform-side operating system in the data processing system in combination with tracking said status information of the primary system component during the first instantiation of the platform-side operating system, wherein the redundant system component is configured for providing functionality provided by the primary system component during the first instantiation of the platform-side operating system and wherein said tracking is facilitated by [[a]]the service processor of the data processing system; and

in conjunction with performing reboot of the platform-side operating system for providing a second instantiation of the platform-side operating system after termination of the first instantiation of the platform-side operating system, said platform firmware configuring the platform-side operating system dependent ~~at least partially~~ upon said status information ~~of least one of said system components~~, wherein said configuring includes ~~determining if the primary system component is incapable of providing said functionality and~~ causing~~allowing~~ said functionality to be provided by the redundant system component during the second instantiation of the platform-side operating system ~~in response to determining that the primary system component is incapable of providing said functionality~~, and wherein said configuring is performed in conjunction with ~~facilitated at least partially by~~ a boot-time portion of platform firmware of the data processing system accessing said status information from the service processor prior to said reboot of the platform-side operating system being completed.

27. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 26 wherein said tracking includes:

probing a device driver associated with the system component; and

receiving said status information from the device driver.

28. (canceled)

29. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim [[28]]26 wherein:

~~said platform firmware includes boot-time firmware; and~~

~~said enabling~~ accessing said status information includes transmitting at least a portion of said status information of at least one of said system components at boot-time by the service processor for reception by the boot-time portion of said platform ~~boot-time~~ firmware.

30. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 29 wherein said transmitting includes transmitting over a network connection.

31. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim [[28]]29 wherein:

~~said platform firmware includes run-time firmware; and~~

~~said enabling~~ configuring the platform-side operating system includes a run-time portion of said platform firmware accessing ~~includes maintaining~~ at least a portion of said status information of at least one of said system components from within a persistent data structure that is accessible by the run-time portion of said platform~~run-time~~ firmware ~~thereby enabling said run-time firmware to access at least a portion of said status information of at least one of said system components~~.

32. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 26 wherein said tracking includes:

querying a device driver associated with the primary system component after an adverse operating system condition for determining if the primary system component contributed to the adverse operating system action and

implementing a specified corrective action involving the primary system component in response to a determination that the primary system component contributed to the adverse operating system condition.

33. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 26 wherein said tracking includes:

determining that the redundant system component is idle during a present operating system instantiation;

monitoring status of the redundant system component during the present operating system instantiation; and

implementing a specified corrective action involving the redundant system component in response to a determination that the redundant system component is at least temporarily unable to provide intended redundancy functionality.

34. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 26 wherein said instructions are further adapted for enabling at least one of the service processor and said platform firmware to facilitate:

receiving user-specified configuration information via a service processor based user interface; and

transmitting at least a portion of said user-specified configuration information by the service processor for reception by said platform firmware;

wherein said configuring is further dependent at least partially upon said user-specified configuration information.

35. (withdrawn) A computer readable medium, comprising:

instructions processable by at least one of a service processor in a data processing system and platform firmware of a platform-side operating system in the data processing system; and

an apparatus from which said instructions are accessible by at least one of the service processor and said platform firmware;

wherein said instructions being adapted for enabling at least one of the service processor and said platform firmware to facilitate:

tracking status information of a primary system component of a platform-side operating system in a data processing system;

tracking status information of a redundant system component of the platform-side operating system in the data processing system in combination with tracking said status information of the primary system component and wherein the redundant system component is configured for providing functionality provided by the primary system component; and

enabling access of at least a portion of said status information of at least one of said system components by platform firmware of the data processing system for enabling the platform-side operating system to be configured dependent at least partially upon said status information of at least one of said system components;

wherein said tracking and said enabling access are facilitated by a service processor of the data processing system.

36. (withdrawn) The computer readable medium of claim 35 wherein said tracking of each one of said system components includes:

probing a device driver associated with a respective one of said~~the~~ system components; and

receiving said status information from the device driver.

37. (withdrawn) The computer readable medium of claim 35 wherein:

said platform firmware includes boot-time firmware; and

said enabling access includes transmitting at least a portion of said status information at boot-time by the service processor for reception by said boot-time firmware.

38. (withdrawn) The computer readable medium of claim 37 wherein said transmitting includes transmitting over a network connection.

39. (withdrawn) The computer readable medium of claim 35 wherein:

said platform firmware includes run-time firmware; and

said enabling access includes maintaining at least a portion of said status information of at least one of said system components in a persistent data structure that is accessible by said run-time firmware thereby enabling said run-time firmware to access at least a portion of said status information of at least one of said system components.

40. (withdrawn) The computer readable medium of claim 35 wherein said tracking includes:

querying a device driver associated with the primary system component after an adverse operating system condition for determining if the primary system component contributed to the adverse operating system action and

implementing a specified corrective action involving the primary system component in response to a determination that the primary system component contributed to the adverse operating system condition.

41. (withdrawn) The computer readable medium of claim 35 wherein said tracking includes:

determining that the redundant system component is idle during a present operating system instantiation;

monitoring status of the redundant system component during the present operating system instantiation; and

implementing a specified corrective action involving the redundant system component in response to a determination that the redundant system

component is at least temporarily unable to provide intended redundancy functionality.

42. (withdrawn) The computer readable medium of claim 35 wherein said instructions are further adapted for enabling at least one of the service processor and said platform firmware to facilitate:

receiving user-specified configuration information via a service processor based user interface; and

transmitting at least a portion of said user-specified configuration information by the service processor for reception by said platform firmware;

wherein said configuring is further dependent at least partially upon said user-specified configuration information.

43. (currently amended) A computer readable medium, comprising:

instructions processable by at least one of a service processor in a data processing system and platform firmware of a platform-side operating system in the data processing system; and

an apparatus from which said instructions are accessible by at least one of the service processor and said platform firmware;

wherein said instructions being adapted for enabling ~~at least one of the service processor and~~ said platform firmware to facilitate:

accessing status information of a primary system component of a platform-side operating system in a data processing system;

accessing status information of a redundant system component of the platform-side operating system in the data processing system in combination with accessing said status information of the primary system component, wherein the redundant system component is configured for providing functionality provided by the primary system component during a first instantiation of the platform-side operating system; and

in conjunction with performing reboot of the platform-side operating system for providing a second instantiation of the platform-side operating system after termination of the first instantiation of the platform-side operating system, a boot-time portion of platform firmware of the data processing system configuring the platform-side operating system dependent at least partially upon said status information of at least one of said system components, wherein said configuring is performed in conjunction with the boot-time portion of said platform firmware accessing said status information from the service processor prior to said reboot of the platform-side operating system being completed;

~~wherein said accessing and at least a portion of said configuring are facilitated by platform firmware of data processing system~~.

44. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 43 wherein said accessing is facilitated in response to said status information of at least one of said system components being transmitted by [[a]] the service processor of the data processing system for reception by said platform firmware.

45. (canceled)

46. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim [[45]]43 wherein said accessing includes receiving at least a portion of said status information of at least one of said system components via a network connection.

47. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 43 wherein:

~~said platform firmware includes run-time firmware; and~~

said accessing includes accessing at least a portion of said status information of at least one of said system components in a persistent

data structure maintained at least partially by the service processor and accessible by a run-time portion of said platform~~run-time~~ firmware.

48. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 43 wherein said instructions are further adapted for enabling at least one of the service processor and said platform firmware to facilitate:

receiving user-specified configuration information transmitted by the service processor for reception by the platform firmware, wherein said configuring is further dependent at least partially upon said user-specified configuration information.

49. (previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein:

said configuring includes implementing a specified corrective action for the redundant system component in response to said status information of the redundant system component indicating that the redundant system component is unavailable to provide intended redundancy functionality.

50. (previously presented) The method of claim 49 wherein the specified corrective action includes at least one of issuing notification of the unavailability of the redundant system component and issuing notification to repair or replace the redundant system component for maintaining fail-over capability.